SECT. VI.—INFINITE POWEE AND WISDOM REQUIRED TO GOVERN A WORLD SO CONSTITUTED.

There Is wisdom displayed, we have seen, in the circumstance that the world is governed by general laws, arid in the relation of the various substances and laws to each other. But the plan, as it is devised by Divine wisdom, requires Divine wisdom to execute it. One trembles at the very idea of its execution being committed to any other than a being whose intelligence and resources are unbounded.

Yet we may for an instant imagine a world so constituted being committed to the government of a being high and exalted, but yet finite—to one of tife younger gods of heathen fable, or of the angels of revelation. And when first set in motion, it might look as if all was harmoniously planned, and as if every emergency had been provided for. For a time, the system moves on with beautiful regularity; but suddenly, and at some distant point, events come into unexpected contact, then into violent collision ; and evil is threatened at points where there is nothing to meet it. Laws, beautiful in themselves, are crossed, accelerated, or interrupted by other laws ; and thousands of living beings in certain parts of the world are left neglected, or are placed in terrific circumstances, owing to some omission or oversight. Disorder, beginning in a corner which had been overlooked, soon spreads in widening circles to other districts, or to other worlds. The very compactness of the connexion in which all things are bound serves only to extend the prevailing confusion and misery. Had the various parts of the world not been so linked together, the evil might have died and disappeared at the place where it began its ravages. But human beings were never so crowded in a city where plague has broken out. in fearful virulence, as the objects of this world are concatenated by their various relations; and plague spreading

itself through
that city, till every district was infected, is a
picture on a small
scale of the manner in which evil, once bursting
forth, would
propagate itself from one country and one
world to another.
The intelligent creation, as they surveyed the
advancing dis-
order, would ^e confounded and dismayed; and we
can conceive
that the governor of the world would at last feel
himself terror-
struck in the survey of the evil he was producing.